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COUNCIL

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Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Executive Summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other *fora* of importance for FAO's mandate.

Presentations will be made on the following topics at the 157th Session of Council:

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 157th Session of the Council for information only.

1. International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area;
2. FAO and the work on migration in global fora (GMG, GFMD, G7)



I. International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area

1. Sustainable Development Goal 15 *on Life on Land* calls for halting deforestation by 2020 and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) includes reversing the loss of forest cover and increasing forest area by 3 percent worldwide by 2030.
2. In 2018, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will review SDG 15 and its Targets and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is expected to provide substantive input to the HLPF 2018.
3. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is chaired by FAO and supports the UNFF process. CPF is proposing to hold an International Conference on Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Cover, with the objective to make recommendations, through UNFF13, to the HLPF review.
4. The International Conference will bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the challenges of halting and reversing deforestation and to jointly explore ways to accelerate progress towards achieving in particular the SDG Target 15.2 and Target 1.1 of the UNSPF.
5. More specifically, the International Conference will (i) review current key drivers of deforestation and ways they are being addressed; (ii) identify key policy challenges to achieving the targets of halting deforestation and increasing forest cover; (iii) recommend ways forward, including key actions by countries and the international community; and (iv) provide recommendations to UNFF13 and the HLPF on further policy development and actions needed to upscale progress on the targets.
6. Participants will include representatives of government ministries from different sectors, including agriculture and livestock, environment, energy and others. The private sector has an important role to play in halting deforestation and representatives of key companies, private sector associations and small producer organizations will be invited. Civil society organizations, especially of indigenous peoples will also participate.

II. FAO and the work on migration in global fora (GMG, GFMD, G7)

7. Migration is an increasingly relevant area of work for FAO. Its drivers and impacts are intimately linked to FAO's global goals of fighting hunger and achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. In its revised Strategic Framework, FAO has renewed its commitment to work on migration issues. In particular, migration and remittances are part of FAO's integrated approach for rural poverty reduction and programme of action for Strategic Objective 3 Reduce Rural Poverty.
8. FAO supports the creation of better conditions and resilient livelihoods in rural areas, which contributes to reducing rural migration. FAO also advocates for harnessing the developmental potential of migration and is committed to strengthening the positive contribution that migrants, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) bring for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, and resilience of rural households.
9. Moreover, FAO works to: (i) enhance evidence about labour migration and the impact of migration and remittances on rural livelihoods; (ii) technical support and capacity development to governments and rural stakeholders; (iii) strengthened policy dialogue and (iv) more systematic contribution to existing global cooperation mechanisms.
10. Since June 2014, FAO is member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency body that promotes the dialogue on migration issues at the international level. GMG membership provides FAO with the opportunity to make sure the international dialogue is well-informed regarding

the root causes of migration from rural areas and the implications for rural poverty, food security and natural resource management.

11. As a member of the Group, FAO participates and systematically collaborates with other agencies on global migration initiatives. Collaboration focuses especially on research and knowledge generation for the production of guidance materials. FAO brings value added to the GMG through its expertise in rural livelihood strategies and country-level presence.

12. The main priorities of the Group are to:

- Promote the application of instruments and norms relating to migration.
- Encourage the adoption of more effective approaches for a coordinated response to migration issues.
- Respond to the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities arising from migration.

13. By participating in the GMG, FAO acquired the visibility and recognition that are necessary to expand its work in this thematic area. Being part of the GMG is an effective channel to interact more systematically with other UN agencies, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), who recently joined the Group.

14. The GMG provides the three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) with a wider platform for collaboration. By coordinating and joining efforts, FAO, IFAD and WFP can better mainstream agriculture, rural development and food security concerns in the global migration debate. FAO participates in relevant GMG meetings both at managerial/strategic and technical/operational levels. In FAO, the Social Protection Division (ESP) is the responsible technical unit, and it collaborates closely with FAO offices in both New York and Geneva.

15. Moreover, FAO has been appointed as co-chair of the GMG together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for 2018. Next year is going to be critical for the future of migration, as UN Member States will adopt a Global Compact on safe, regular and orderly Migration (GC/M), as well as the one on Refugees. The New York Declaration has explicitly assigned a role to the GMG in the process leading to the adoption of the GC/M. In preparation for the negotiations for the GC/M, the President of the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General are organizing six thematic consultations, for which the GMG has been requested to draft issue briefs.

16. FAO has co-led the development of the second issue brief on the drivers of migration (together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), and it will actively contribute to the fourth issue brief on migration and sustainable development.

17. FAO's co-chairmanship of the GMG provides new opportunities of collaboration with WFP and IFAD also in the context of the G7 discussions. The RBAs, together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), will work together on a technical paper on migration, food security and rural development to inform the discussion of the G7 Ministers for Agriculture.